

HOUSE RESOLUTION 49

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jimmy Ellis of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jimmy Ellis; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ellis was an exemplary public servant, an individual of diverse strengths, and a gifted musician who worked assiduously to enrich the lives of his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, James McKinley Ellis grew up in Detroit; he nobly served with the United States Armed Forces as a paratrooper in Vietnam in the late 1960s; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Army, Mr. Ellis moved to Boston, where he studied music at the Berklee College of Music and played behind such noted stars as Chuck Berry and Solomon Burke; and

WHEREAS, an acclaimed drummer; Jimmy Ellis moved to Memphis in 1978; where, he became a fixture in the local jazz, blues, and rock scenes; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ellis also appeared in the 1999 Robert Altman film, “Cookie’s Fortune” and was a founding member of several popular local bands, including the Herman Green & Jimmy Ellis Blues Review that later became Free World; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ellis was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Ellis enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Dolly, and was the proud father of three daughters, Jáne, Tiffany, and Teffanye; and

WHEREAS, those who knew Jimmy Ellis best cherish the memories of his versatility, soulful feel, and easygoing demeanor; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this musician, soldier, husband, father, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of James McKinley Ellis, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable musicianship, his service to his country, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ellis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.